

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the prior Restriction Requirement is discussed. Responsive thereto, Applicant affirms its prior non-election of claims 1-10, without traverse.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action the title is objected to as being not descriptive. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended the title to read --Planar Magnetic Head--. Applicant therefore submits that this ground of objection has been satisfied.

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(3) as being anticipated by Sasaki, stating:

“See Figs. 8A and 8B. Note; read head element 15, pole 18, pole pedestal 19a, etch stop 20a, induction coil 21, back piece 19b and flat write gap 22.

Further note that the environment for Sasaki’s device is for use in disc drives [col. 1, lines 9-11] having the same structure as indicated in Cl. 15.”

Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended independent claims 11 and 15 to clarify that the entire P2 pole, including a body portion and the P2 pole tip portion are fabricated upon the flat write gap layer. Regarding the ground of rejection, Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection and asserts that the claims recite limitations that are not taught by the cited prior art.

Specifically, independent claims 11 and 15 both recite the limitation that the P2 pole, including the P2 pole tip, is disposed upon the write gap layer. A review of Figs. 8A and B of Sasaki ‘288 reveal that while the second pole tip 23a is formed upon the write gap layer 22, the body 25 of the second pole is not disposed upon the write gap layer, rather, a second induction coil structure 24 and resist layer 20d are formed upon a insulation layer 20c that is formed upon the write gap layer 22. As indicated in Applicant’s specification and amended claims, a significant feature of Applicant’s invention is that the entire P2 pole, including the P2 pole tip, is entirely formed upon a single flat surface (the write gap layer) in order to promote ease of fabrication of the P2 pole and the precise fabrication of a narrow P2 pole tip. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the cited prior art fails to teach all of the limitations of Applicant’s invention as described in amended independent claims 11 and 15. Applicant therefore submits that independent claims 11 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. With regard to dependent claims 12-14 and 16-18, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim, either directly or indirectly.

Having responded to all of the paragraphs of the Office Action, and having amended the claims accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be forthcoming at the Examiner's earliest opportunity. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments with regard to this amendment, a telephonic conference at the number set forth below is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT O. GUILLOT

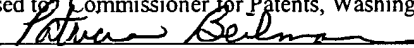
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on August 30, 2002 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.
Date: August 30, 2002


Patricia Beilmann

ATTACHMENT A

MARKED UP AMENDED CLAIMS - S/N 09/638,663

1 11. (Once amended) A magnetic head, comprising:
2 a substrate;
3 read head elements being fabricated upon said substrate;
4 a P1 pole being fabricated upon said read head elements;
5 a P1 pole pedestal being disposed upon said P1 pole in magnetic connection therewith;
6 an etch stop layer being disposed upon said P1 pole;
7 an induction coil structure being fabricated upon said etch stop layer;
8 a flat upper surface being formed upon said P1 pedestal and said induction coil structure;
9 a write gap layer being disposed upon said flat upper surface; and
10 a P2 pole, including a body portion and a P2 pole tip portion, being disposed upon said
11 write gap layer.

1 15. (Once amended) A hard disk drive comprising:
2 a motor for rotating a spindle;
3 a magnetic medium disk mounted on said spindle;
4 an actuator assembly including a magnetic head for writing magnetic information on said
5 disk, said magnetic head including:
6 a substrate;
7 read head elements being fabricated upon said substrate;
8 a P1 pole being fabricated upon said read head elements;
9 a P1 pole pedestal being disposed upon said P1 pole in magnetic connection therewith;

10 an etch stop layer being disposed upon said P1 pole;
11 an induction coil structure being fabricated upon said etch stop layer;
12 a flat upper surface being formed upon said P1 pedestal and said induction coil structure;
13 a write gap layer being disposed upon said flat upper surface; and
14 a P2 pole, including a body portion and a P2 pole tip portion, being disposed upon said
15 write gap layer.